REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 4. Claims 1, 2 and 4 are amended herein, and new claim 5 is added. FIGS. 1-6, 7a-7d, 8a-8i, 9a-9f and 10-29 are also enclosed herein. Claim 3 remains withdrawn. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS:

At item 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that corrected drawings are needed because the drawings are filed are hard to read.

Enclosed herein are replacement sheets including FIGS. FIGS. 1-6, 7a-7d, 8a-8i, 9a-9f and 10-29.

Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to the figures is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101:

Claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Independent claims 1 and 4 as amended are directed to a computer implemented method of consolidated billing to provide a user with each billable event of multiple services associated with the user where "a computer" in the technological arts is used to collect events from a plurality of service systems to facilitate billing, a useful, tangible, and concrete result.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that because independent claims 1 and 4 and dependent claim 2 depending from claim 1 satisfy the requirements of 35 USC §101, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2:

At item 6 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 2. Claim 2 is amended herein to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are being rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0033416 (Gerszberg).

Gerszberg is directed to generating an electronic bill for a particular subscriber responsive to receipt of service usage data including at least cable television services, data services and telecommunications services. Gerszberg collects subscriber preference data, such as equipment/service preferences and service usage data from network components using an integrated residential gateway (IGG) (see, FIG. 2 and paragraph 57). Then, Gerszberg provides a single bill for all these products and services based on various service charging schemes (see, paragraph 66). That is, Gerszberg simply merges service usage data resulting from cable television services, data services and telecommunications services by consolidating outputs from the different network components.

In contrast, the present invention gathers events across multiple systems and executes rating and pricing with respect to each of the gathered events to produce a consolidated bill. This enables the present invention to provide a single integrated solution that is industry independent for various services and offers provided by multiple service providers. For example, the present invention provides a customer with a single bill for local recurring charges, Internet access recurring charges, pager usage, initial sale of the pager, credit points from an airline frequent flyer program, etc.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites, "collecting events from a plurality of service systems using a computer", "rating and pricing the events" and "producing a consolidated bill for a customer subscribing to a plurality of services". The present invention implements collective rating and pricing of the events collected across the plurality of service systems.

Independent claim 4 as amended also recites that the present invention provides "a collection of convergent products providing distinct and independent services, each having different event collection and service systems" and collects "events from a plurality of said service systems providing a collection of heterogeneous usage events using a computer". Further, as recited in independent claim 4, the present invention includes "converting said events into a common formatted usage event" and "rating, pricing, discounting, summarizing and billing said usage events based on said event collection system including cross discounting across the converged products" for producing "a consolidated bill for a customer".

This is unlike Gerszberg that merely merges service usage data produced from services such as cable television and telecommunications services.

Gerszberg does not teach or suggest, "rating and pricing the events" collected from a plurality of service systems and "converting said events into a common formatted usage event

[and] rating, pricing, discounting, summarizing and billing said usage events based on said event collection system including cross discounting across the converged products" to produce a consolidated bill, as respectively recited in independent claims 1 and 4.

It is submitted that the independent claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Gerszberg.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, dependent claim 2 that depends from independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Gerszberg. Dependent claim 2 is also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 2, the present invention includes "providing an integrated view of customer data, billing data, product data and services with respect to the customer". The Gerszberg method does not teach or suggest providing "an integrated view of customer data, billing data, product data and services with respect to the customer" (claim 2), where the operation includes "rating and pricing the events" collected from a plurality of service systems (claim 1 upon which claim 2 depends).

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 5 has been added to recite, "assembling billable events across each of the plurality of service providing systems into a single database, the billable events having multiple pricing structures" and "converging the collected billable events into a single bill by applying a single common processing to each of the collected billable events".

Gerszberg does not teach or suggest, "assembling billable events across each of the plurality of service providing systems into a single database" and "converging the collected billable events into a single bill by applying a single common processing", as recited in new claim 5.

Therefore, it is submitted that new claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over Gerszberg.

CONCLUSION:

Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and 4 are amended, new claim 5 is added and replacement FIGS. 1-6, 7a-7d, 8a-8i, 9a-9f and 10-29 are also enclosed herein. Claim 3 remains withdrawn. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is

requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _7/19/5_   By: _____

J. Randall Beckers
Registration No. 30,358

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawing includes a replacement sheets FIGS. 1-6, 7a-7d, 8a-8i, 9a-9f and 10-29 (44 sheets). The sheet containing FIGS. 1-6, 7a-7d, 8a-8i, 9a-9f and 10-29 replaces the original FIGS. 1-29 (as filed).

Approval of the changes to FIGS. FIGS. 1-6, 7a-7d, 8a-8i, 9a-9f and 10-29 is respectfully requested.